

Newsletter

Fireworks Impact Air Quality

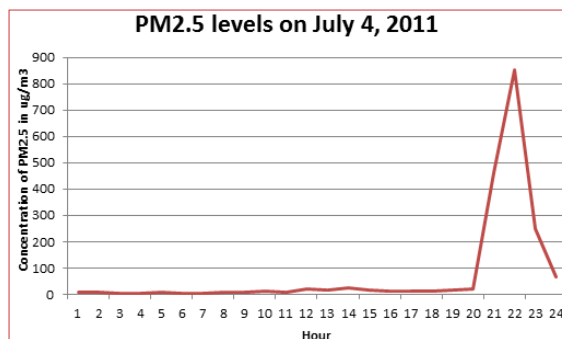
This is the second year in a row that smoke from 4th of July fireworks exceeded the Federal fine particulate (PM_{2.5}) standard in the Feather River Air Quality Management District in Yuba and Sutter Counties.



As local fireworks displays started around sunset, hourly PM_{2.5} concentrations skyrocketed. Light winds and high temperatures contributed to the high particulate levels. A maximum of 854 µg/m³ was measured in Yuba City. Several hours of very high PM_{2.5} levels resulted in the 24-hour average

concentration reaching 77 µg/m³, an unhealthy level according to the Air Quality Index, or AQI. Concentrations returned to normal after midnight.

In anticipation of the forecasted weather conditions and 4th of July firework celebrations, the Feather River Air Quality Management District issued a 4th of July Fireworks press release advising caution for residents sensitive to particulate air pollution.



Training Opportunities

The California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) publishes a monthly list of training opportunities offered by many agencies, including CSTI and CalFire.

Courses include:

- terrorism preparedness
- hazmat response
- hazard communication
- exercise planning

For this month's list of courses, please visit the [CalEMA Training Division](#) webpage.

South Coast AQMD ARB and CARPA host training on Emergency Air Monitoring



CARPA along with ARB's Office of Emergency Response and the South Coast Air Quality Management District provided training on emergency air monitoring June 28-29, 2011 for participants from air districts, counties, and federal and tribal agencies.

Targeted to emergency responders, air monitoring personnel, and technical experts, the training focused on using data to identify the level of public risk during emergencies that impact air

quality.

Over the two days, participants went through a variety of training techniques, including:

- Hands-on training with portable PM_{2.5} monitors
- Operational strategies for community monitoring
- How to coordinate air monitoring efforts between multiple agencies
- Using sampling, monitoring, and safety plans

- Data interpretation
- Health metrics and messaging
- Group exercises using a variety of analyzers

This was a great opportunity for CARPA to re-emphasize the importance of preparedness and coordination to increase capacity to respond to major air releases and other emergencies that impact air quality across the state. To view the presentations, please visit the [CARPA](#) webpage or email cpearson@arb.ca.gov.

Community Impacted by Toxic Gases

Geothermal gases affect school and neighborhoods in Clearlake, CA

Clearlake frequently experiences a “rotten egg” odor from hydrogen sulfide (H₂S). Levels of this naturally occurring gas are typically low and result from the area’s volcanic past. A wet winter and spring combined with high lake levels have saturated topsoil, sealing natural release points for geothermal gases. This results in isolated high concentrations where the gases escape from the ground.



ARB and the Air District installed air monitoring equipment to help determine potential exposures at a nearby elementary school. H₂S concentrations have been low, but the odor is noticeable. Carbon dioxide levels are relatively high, although they typically occur at night when children are not present.



Staff from the Air District, County Environmental and Public Health, the Fire District, and City installed a small mitigation system to reduce the immediate potential health hazard until long-term measures can be

implemented.

These agencies joined forces with EPA Region 9, USGS, and CARPA members to continue monitoring and assessing the risk to the community, and together will develop a long term management and mitigation strategy. *For more information, please contact the Lake County Air Quality Management District at lcaqmd@lcaqmd.net.*



Steering Committee Highlights

Dean Peterson officially joined the CARPA Steering Committee in April 2011. He represents the California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health (CCDEH) and provides a much needed intersect between CARPA and Environmental Health Departments across California. Dean shares the CCDEH representative role with Wesley Nicks and Brian Moss, environmental health directors for Nevada and Calaveras Counties, respectively.

Dean is the Director of the Environmental Health for San Mateo County. After receiving his BS in Chemical Engineering from Montana State University, Dean has spent his professional career in the Environmental Health field. He began his career with the Department of

“CCDEH looks forward to participating with CARPA for many years to come.”

- Dean Peterson, CCDEH representative to CARPA and San Mateo County Environmental Health Director



Defense tasked with investigating and cleaning up leaking underground storage tanks, CERCLA sites, and air permitting and compliance on Navy bases throughout California and Nevada. In 1988 Dean began working for San Mateo County Environmental Health and has dedicated his career to developing and implementing policies linking environmental health to public health goals.

As the Director of Environmental Health since 1998, Dean provides leadership to professional staff as they ensure a safe and healthful environment for the citizens of San Mateo County through education, monitoring, and enforcement of a variety of regulatory programs.

CARPA is especially appreciative of Dean's leadership following the 2010 San Bruno natural gas explosion, and his tireless efforts and dedication to helping the affected community recover from the disaster.

Public Information Officer Corner

The **Message to Audience Subcommittee** is developing outreach tools for use during emergencies. Examples include:

- *Templates for press releases distinguishing between a ‘watch’ and a ‘warning’ with smoke impacts (courtesy of Mary Byrd, Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District).*
- *Tips for reaching out with critical information when traditional resources are unavailable, or ‘messaging off the grid’ (courtesy of Dr. Charles Mosher, Mariposa County).*
- *Smoke Communication Strategy, a guideline for communicating with stakeholders about smoke from prescribed and wild fires (courtesy of Deb Schweizer, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks).*

The Subcommittee reminds readers that the [Wildfire Smoke Guide](#) has a wealth of information including guidance for fire, public health, and air quality officials on making decisions involving public impact of smoke from wildfires. If you have materials to share with the subcommittee or posted to the [CARPA website](#), please forward to co-chairs Ann Stacy (astacy@arb.ca.gov) or Kathy Coulter (kcoulter@ysaqmd.org).

We're on the web!

www.arb.ca.gov/carpa/carpa.htm

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To contact CARPA, please email carpa@arb.ca.gov

